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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00
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R 271959Z AUG 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4905
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 4994

EO 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINT, AR
SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS PERON CONVICTION

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

REF: 81 BA 4979

1. ON AUGUST 25, THE SUPREME COURT CONFIRMED THE PRISON SENTENCE IMPOSED ON FORMER PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON IN JULY OF 1981 AND UPHELD A COURT DECISION OF MARCH 1981, DISQUALIFYING HER IN PERPETUITY FROM HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL PER REFTEL, THAT MRS. PERON BECAME ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE IN JULY OF LAST YEAR AND WAS PERMITTED TO LEAVE ARGENTINA. SHE NOW LIVES QUIETLY IN MADRID.

2. THE COURT ALSO RATIFIED THE FIVE YEAR PRISON SENTENCE AND DISQUALIFICATION FROM HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE IMPOSED ON MRS. PERON'S ECONOMY MINISTER, CELESTINO RODRIGO.

3. THE CONVICTION OF DUILIO BRUNELLO, THEN VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE JUSTICIALIST (PERONIST) PARTY, WAS ALSO CONFIRMED BUT THE OFFENSE WAS REDUCED TO THREE YEARS AND TWO MONTHS IN PRISON. IN THE CASE OF NORMA LOPEZ REGA, DAUGHTER OF MRS. PERON'S CLOSEST ADVISER JOSE LOPEZ REGA WHO IS STILL A FUGITIVE BELIEVE LIVING ABROAD, THE SENTENCE WAS REDUCED TO TWO YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS.

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4. THE SUPREME COURT ALSO RULED THAT MRS. PERON, RODRIGO AND
BRUNELLO SHOULD RETURN MONEY IT SAID THEY EMBEZZLED. PAYMENT
SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN THREE DAYS OF NOTIFICATION OF THE SENTENCE,
ACCORDING TO THE COURT.
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